(c) and (d). Under the New Industrial Policy announced on 24th July, 1991, requirement of an industrial licence has been done away with except for a short list of industries on strategic, security and social considerations. For items requiring an industrial licence, specific proposals received by the Government.

[*English*]

Continuance of Contracts for Godowns

4432. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing agreements with various private parties are likely to be continued in respect of godowns taken on hire; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to revise the existing terms of hire charges etc. in respect of private godowns currently used by the Union Government agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The hiring and de-hiring of godowns by the two main central agencies viz, Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Central warehousing Corporation (CWC), is a continuous process and is determined by the requirements of storage capacity at any given stage and the capacity already available.

(b) FCI and CWC do not have any proposal to revise the hire charges in respect of hired godowns during the currency of existing agreements.

Encroachment on Public Land

4433. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the encroachment on public land in D.B. Block Market, Hari Nagar, G-8 Area, Rajouri Garden, New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also received complaints against this encroachment; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c). These encroachments were detected by the Delhi Development Authority during a survey carried out by it in April, 1991. Delhi Development Authority has reported that show cause Notices have been issued to the allottees/lessees to remove the encroachments and in case the encroachment continues, the allotment/lease will be cancelled.

Foodgrain Buffer Stock

4434. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a 1.9 million tonne shortfall in the foodgrain buffer stock;

(b) if so, how far it is below the level prescribed under the Government's buffer-stock policy; and

(c) the steps being taken to make good the shortfall in the stocks of various foodgrains and bring them to the level stipulated by the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI) (a) and (b). The stocks required to

be maintained by the public agencies as per the buffer stocking policy adopted by the Government are as under:

(*Million Tonnes*)

Date	*Rice*	*Wheat*	*Total*
1st October	6.0	10.6	16.6

The stock of foodgrains with public agencies as on 1.10.1991, was of the order of 15.6 million tonnes, comprising 7.00 million tonnes of rice and 8.6 million tonnes of wheat.

(c) Although, the present stocks of wheat and rice are considered to be sufficient to meet the reasonable requirements of Public Distribution System, all possible efforts are being made, in corporation with the State Governments, to maximise procurement for the central pool.

Drought Prone Area Programme

4435. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made of the Drought Prone Area Programme launched in the country in terms of maximising the agricultural production in good rainfall years and minimising the crop losses when the rainfall is not adequate by adopting suitable low-cost soil and moisture conservation measures on a scientific basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the above programme is likely to be continued and if so, the Central assistance given to the States concerned financially and technically since the start of the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c) A final decision on the Report of the National Committee recommending transfer of the Drought Prone Areas Programme to the States has not yet been taken. The Central Assistance given to the States concerned since the start of the programme and upto March 91 amounts to Rs. 619.21 crores.

Setting up of Expert Committee to Recommend Norms for Fixation of Water Rates

4436. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has set up an expert Committee to recommend the norms for fixing water rates in a bid to rationalise irrigation water tariff;

(b) if so, by what time the Committee is likely to submit its interim report; and

(c) the composition and terms of reference of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has constituted a Committee on pricing of Irrigation water on 23.10.1991.

(b) The Committee will submit the final report within four months from the date of notification.

(c) The composition and terms of reference of the Committee are contained in the attached statement.